

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Accu-router, Inc.

Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Accu-Router, Inc. Realizes Cost Savings with New Machine Bridge

Client Profile:

Accu-Router, Inc., is a high technology manufacturer of computer controlled, customized routing systems located in Morrison, Tennessee. This class of machine tool is exceptionally fast with motion and cutting rates, spindle cutting speeds and material removal. The company currently employs 22 people.

Situation:

Accu-Router is actively engaged in older Accu-Router machine remanufacturing, where machines are disassembled and then reassembled by replacing the worn mechanical parts and electronics with the latest technology. There were many engineering issues that hindered speeding up these very old machines, and Accu-Router requested the services of the Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership (TMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

Solution:

TMEP brought in the University of Tennessee's Mechanical Engineering Department to develop and analyze solutions for the machine bridge. The machine bridge on the old models needed to extend 24 inches to accommodate the machining options offered on new machines. As a result of TMEP's assistance, the Accu-Router now has the capability of reassembling their old equipment with the very latest CNC control system, axis drives and spindle technology. This provides Accu-Router with the ability to provide options of new or refurbished routers to their customers. The bottom line of this project is that the fully converted high speed Accu-Router represents a new value considerably below the cost of a completely new machine. This option makes customers very happy as well as showing the company in a favorable 'environmentally green' light by keeping the machine from being totally scrapped.

Results:

- * Realized \$50,000 in savings.
- * Invested \$75,000 in plant and equipment.

Testimonial:

"Accu-Router is grateful for the research and development assistance from the University of Tennessee program."

Todd Herzog, President